

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 533

By Bone

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the winners of the  
Tennessee Agricultural Museum's student farm  
essay contest.

WHEREAS, on January 13, 1840, the renowned statesman, lawyer, and orator, Daniel Webster said, "When tillage begins, other arts follow. The farmers therefore are the founders of human civilization"; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the importance of farming and in conjunction with the new millennium celebration, the Tennessee Agricultural Museum sponsored a farm essay contest for more than 1,600 4th to 12th grade student participants from across the state in December 1999. This farm essay contest was purposefully created as an effort to encourage students to think about the contributions of farm families of the past, present, and future; and

WHEREAS, the winners of the farm essay contest were: 4th grader Tyler Boyd, 5th grader Scarlett Andrews, 7th grader Matthew McBride, and 12th grader Heather Neel; and

WHEREAS, each of the four grade categories' winners received \$100 and a certificate of recognition from the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, as well as having excerpts from their award-winning essays published in the *Tennessee Cooperator* and the *Tennessee Farm Bureau News* monthly agricultural publications; and

WHEREAS, Tyler Boyd, the winner of the 4th grade category for his winning essay entitled, "The Farmer's Best Friend," wrote: "Farmers depend on many things so that they can provide for their families and others...I believe the Lord is the farmer's best friend...We know that this coming year is going to be rough, but who could ask for a better best friend to hold our hands and lead us—no matter what?" Tyler is the son of proud parents, David and Deborah Boyd of Newport; he attends Newport Grammar School in Cocke County where his Language Arts teacher is Karen Teague and his principal is Steven Ball; and

WHEREAS, Scarlett Andrews is the winner of the 5th and 6th grade category; Scarlett is a 5th grader at Carthage Elementary School in Smith County, where her teacher is Melissa Teat and her principal is Kandy Smith. Scarlett is the lovely daughter of Mark and Pam Andrews of Carthage. She stressed the importance of the family farm in her essay entitled "Family Farm": "The family farm is not only a source of income; it is a source of entertainment, adventure, beauty, and contentment. Families who live on farms have new surprises every day. I know about these things because I live on a farm...I am proud of what my dad has accomplished on the farm. Without farmers like him, we would not be able to enjoy the dairy and beef products or clothing materials provided by our farm. As we enter into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, I hope that family farms continue to exist in America so that children like me can enjoy the benefits of living in rural areas"; and

WHEREAS, the winner of the 7th and 8th grade category for his essay entitled, "A Farmer's Dream," is 7<sup>th</sup> grader Matthew McBride. Matthew is the son of proud parents, Mark and Carol McBride of Jackson. He attends Northeast Middle School in Madison County, where his teacher is Starla Kizer and his principal is Larry Lewis. Matthew wrote: "I dream of being a farmer...When I was about five years old, I used to go to sleep with an envelope with corn in it that came all the way from my grandparents' farm in Iowa. As I slept I would dream about how much fun I would have there in the summers while we would visit. I would dream about how I would ride in tractors and combines, watching the cows graze and seeing the pigs lay in the

mud...Whatever I decide to do as a full-time occupation, you can bet on one thing, I'll be rising early to feed my livestock, because I will be a farmer"; and

WHEREAS, Lincoln County High School 12th grader Heather Neel won the 9th to 12th grade category with her essay entitled, "Farm Traditions." She is the lovely daughter of Tom and Melissa Neel of Petersburg; her teacher is Rujenia Dotson and her principal is Jim Stewart. Heather wrote in her winning essay: "Believe it or not farming is an art in itself because you have to develop a feel for when to plant and how to pick the best bull despite the latest fashion. Farming is a number of things. It is a way to become a productive member of society, a way to enjoy the benefits of harvest, a way to pull together in drought, and a way of fulfilling the dreams of not only a grandfather but ancestors who shared in the dream long ago...Of course, today my maternal grandfather's bull-tongue plow sits at a cousin's, and my paternal grandfather's gee-whiz Farmall and horse drawn drill sit under the shed. But one thing remains, our love for farming and desire to continue it. Whether it's raising cattle, gardening, or possibly even row cropping, the family farm remains part of my past as it continues to be part of my future"; and

WHEREAS, Deputy Commissioner of the Tennessee Department of Agriculture, Louis Buck, stated, "Agriculture is so important to every aspect of our lives. It is reassuring to know that these outstanding students understand and appreciate this important lesson. They are winners because they have demonstrated an ability to creatively communicate that understanding. I'm proud to congratulate them"; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud these young people for their dedication to the state of Tennessee and to the noble vocation of agriculture; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor and commend Tyler Boyd of Newport, Scarlett Andrews of Carthage, Matthew McBride of Jackson, and Heather Neel of Petersburg upon their award-

winning essays in the Tennessee Agricultural Museum's student farm essay contest and extend to them our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.